AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite ~~Composite~~ prosthetic implant ~~(1)~~ comprising:

a textile support ~~(2)~~ of which at least a portion of the surface ~~(1A)~~ is covered by a lyophilisate ~~(3)~~ of a biocompatible material, ~~characterised in that the lyophilisate (3) is a lyophilisate of a biocompatible material~~ which comprises, as its main component, ~~one or several~~ at least one of ~~the following substances~~, and/or ~~one or several~~ at least one of ~~the derivatives~~ a derivative of, the following substances:

[[-]] hyaluronic acid,
[[-]] alginates,
[[-]] polypeptide, and
[[-]] polycaprolactone.

2. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic implant of ~~Implant in accordance with~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lyophilisate ~~(3)~~ is a lyophilisate of hyaluronic acid with a molecular mass of between 800,000 and 2,000,000 daltons~~, and preferably of between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 daltons~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic implant of ~~Composite prosthetic implant (1) in accordance with~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said textile support ~~(2)~~ comprises a top layer of bidimensional or tridimensional structure, ~~chosen~~ the top layer selected from the ~~following~~ group consisting of:

[[-]] a non-woven layer,

[[-]] a woven layer,

[[-]] a knitted layer, and

[[-]] an interlaced layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, wherein ~~Composite prosthetic implant (1) in accordance with any of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the~~ said textile support ~~(2)~~ is obtained from threads chosen from the ~~following~~ group consisting of:

[[-]] single-strand or multi-strand polyester threads and

[[-]] single-strand or multi-strand polypropylene threads.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the manufacture of a composite prosthetic implant comprising: ~~(1) in which a textile support (2) is impregnated with a solution of a first biocompatible material, the said process comprising a lyophilisation stage of the said first biocompatible material which takes place after the impregnation stage, characterised in that~~

an impregnation stage comprising impregnating a textile support with a solution of a first biocompatible material, the first biocompatible material comprising ~~which comprises~~, as its main component, ~~one or several~~ at least one of ~~the following substances,~~ and/or ~~one or several~~ at least one of ~~the derivatives~~ a derivative of, the following substances:

[[-]] hyaluronic acid,

[[-]] alginates,

[[-]] polypeptide, and

[[-]] polycaprolactone;

wherein the process further comprises a lyophilisation stage of the said first biocompatible material, the lyophilisation stage occurring after the impregnation stage.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process in accordance with~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in that it comprises,~~ further comprising:

a pouring stage, subsequent to the impregnation stage and prior to the lyophilisation stage, ~~a pouring stage,~~ in which ~~the~~ a solution of a second biocompatible material is poured onto the impregnated textile support.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Process in accordance with~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in that it comprises, subsequently to the impregnation stage and prior to the lyophilisation stage,~~ further comprising:

a coating stage, subsequent to the impregnation stage and prior to the lyophilisation stage, in which the impregnated textile support is coated with ~~the~~ a solution of a third biocompatible material.

9. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, further comprising: ~~Process in accordance with any of the claims 6 to 8, characterised in that it comprises~~

a spreading-out stage, in which a layer of the solution of a fourth biocompatible material is spread out on ~~the~~ a tray of the lyophilisator used in ~~the~~ a lyophilisation stage, and the textile support ~~(2)~~ impregnated with the solution of the first biocompatible material is then placed against ~~this~~ the layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, further comprising: ~~Process in accordance with any of the claims 6 to 9, characterised in that it comprises~~ a drying stage, following the impregnation stage, for the impregnated textile support ~~which takes place following the impregnation stage~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~Use of a lyophilisate as a covering for a prosthetic implant which favours sticking of the said implant to biological tissue~~

covering a prosthetic implant with a lyophilisate layer; and

sticking the lyophilisate layer to biological tissue.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises: ~~Use in accordance with claim 11, characterised in that the prosthetic implant is an implant for the cure of hernias or eventration~~

surgically implantating the prosthetic implant for the treatment of a hernia or eventration.

13. (New) The prosthetic implant of claim 1, wherein the lyophilisate is a lyophilisate of hyaluronic acid with a molecular mass of between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 daltons.

14. (New) The prosthetic implant of claim 2, wherein the lyophilisate is a lyophilisate of hyaluronic acid with a molecular mass of between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 daltons.

15. (New) The prosthetic implant of claim 2, wherein said textile support comprises a top layer of bidimensional or tridimensional structure, the top layer selected from the group consisting of:

a non-woven layer,
a woven layer,
a knitted layer, and
an interlaced layer.

16. (New) The prosthetic implant of claim 2, wherein said textile support is obtained from threads chosen from the group consisting of:

single-strand or multi-strand polyester threads and

single-strand or multi-strand polypropylene threads.

17. (New) The prosthetic implant of claim 3, wherein said textile support is obtained from threads chosen from the group consisting of:

single-strand or multi-strand polyester threads and

single-strand or multi-strand polypropylene threads.

18. (New) The process of claim 7, further comprising:

a spreading-out stage, in which a layer of the solution of a fourth biocompatible material is spread out on a tray of a lyophilisator used in the lyophilisation stage, and the textile support impregnated with the solution of the first biocompatible material is then placed against the layer.

19. (New) The process of claim 8, further comprising:

a spreading-out stage, in which a layer of the solution of a fourth biocompatible material is spread out on a tray of a lyophilisator used in the lyophilisation stage, and the textile support impregnated with the solution of the first biocompatible material is then placed against the layer.